



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - January 18, 2002

- ***In the West***, this morning's low temperatures ranged from 28 to 36 degrees F in **California's San Joaquin Valley**, as citrus areas continue to escape significant effects from a brush with cold weather. Elsewhere in the **West**, cool, mostly dry weather prevails.
- ***On the Plains***, a few snow showers are developing across **northern areas**, providing minimal relief to drought-stressed winter wheat. Elsewhere in the region, cool weather favors overwintering wheat, although most fields remain free of snow and exposed to windy conditions and potential temperature extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, the coldest air of the season is overspreading **northwestern portions of the region**, where this morning's low temperatures were as low as -10 degrees F. Elsewhere in the **Midwest**, cooler weather and recent snow accumulations have begun to slow off-season fieldwork activities.
- ***In the South***, showers are developing in the **Gulf Coast region**. Although the moisture is beneficial for pastures and winter grains in most areas, some unfavorable wetness lingers in the **Delta**.

Outlook: A storm system is forecast to develop across the **South** later today, producing widespread rainfall. Snow is expected on Saturday along the northern fringe of the precipitation shield, from the **middle Mississippi Valley into the Northeast**. Farther west, mostly dry weather will persist into early next week across the **Plains and Southwest**, but beneficial precipitation is forecast to return to the **Northwest** during the weekend. Bitterly cold weather will be confined to the upper Midwest, but the threat of temperatures near to slightly below the freezing mark (32 degrees F) will persist in California's San Joaquin Valley. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 23-27 calls for a continuation of cool weather in the **West** and near- to above-normal temperatures from the **Plains eastward**. Wet weather is expected across the **South and Pacific Northwest**, but unfavorably dry weather is forecast to continue in the **Southwest**. Only light precipitation is expected across the **Plains and Midwest**.

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